

The Tale of the Half-Blood Prince!

Young Albus Dumbledore loved studying advanced alchemy with the great Nicholas Flamel. He loved living in the royal castle.

He loved everything about his life and his job...except...

"Tie his hair to the railing and his feet to the catapult arm. Ready? FIRE!!!"

There was a screech and a small boy, newly bald, went flying through the air to land in the soft and smelly mud of a distant pigsty.

"Any sign of magic this time?" called the Witch Queen from the balcony.

"Not yet!" said the Wizard King grimly. "We'll have to think of something worse to do to him!"

"I don't know why they can't leave the poor boy in peace," Dumbledore muttered to his mentor.

"There are worse things than being a Squib."

"When you have lived as long as I have," said Flamel, "You will learn that it never pays to advise parents on how to raise their children. Especially if the parents are kings and queens and patrons."

"Yes, but--"

"Listen to me, Albus. The Wizard King is already under hideous pressure for making a Muggleborn his Witch Queen. He can't afford to have a non-magical heir!"

Dumbledore sighed and returned to his work as the Wizard King began conjuring alligators in the swimming pool.

"Why don't you take a break?" Flamel advised. "We need some supplies, go into Diagon Alley this weekend and get them. Take a week's vacation. And make certain you enjoy yourself. It will do you a world of good to watch the duelling tournament, have a few drinks, meet some girls..."

There was a sound of splashing, screaming, and many large, sharp teeth clashing together.

"Yes, I think you're right," said Dumbledore.

It was a miserable day for a ride. Dumbledore sighed as the grey sky absolutely refused to clear. Time for a good book, he decided.

He entered the rear compartment of the private coach and opened his trunk.

It was empty, save for a small, sullen prince.

Dumbledore gazed at the prince. The prince scowled back.

"Have you seen my books?" Dumbledore asked politely.

"Chucked 'em," said the prince. "I'm runnin' away."

"Ah," said Dumbledore. He stood looking at the prince for some time, wondering what he ought to do about it.

Then he shrugged and returned to the front compartment. No doubt it would do the prince good to take a week's vacation as well.

"Thank goodness I found you!" said Flamel, the scar across his face still dripping blood. "It was horrible! The dark wizard Grindelwald said that the king had brought disaster upon our kind by marrying a Mudblood! He slaughtered everybody in the castle! The royal family is no more!"

"Not all of them are dead," said Dumbledore. "The prince is with me, as you see. Though, I suppose...he's actually the Wizard King now."

"I'm afraid not," said Flamel, shaking his head sadly. "The Wizard King MUST have magic! The boy is a prince, true...even if a half blood prince, even if a squib prince. But he can not be king without magic. The fact that he has survived throws the monarchy into limbo...no other family may seize the throne while a rightful heir to that throne lives."

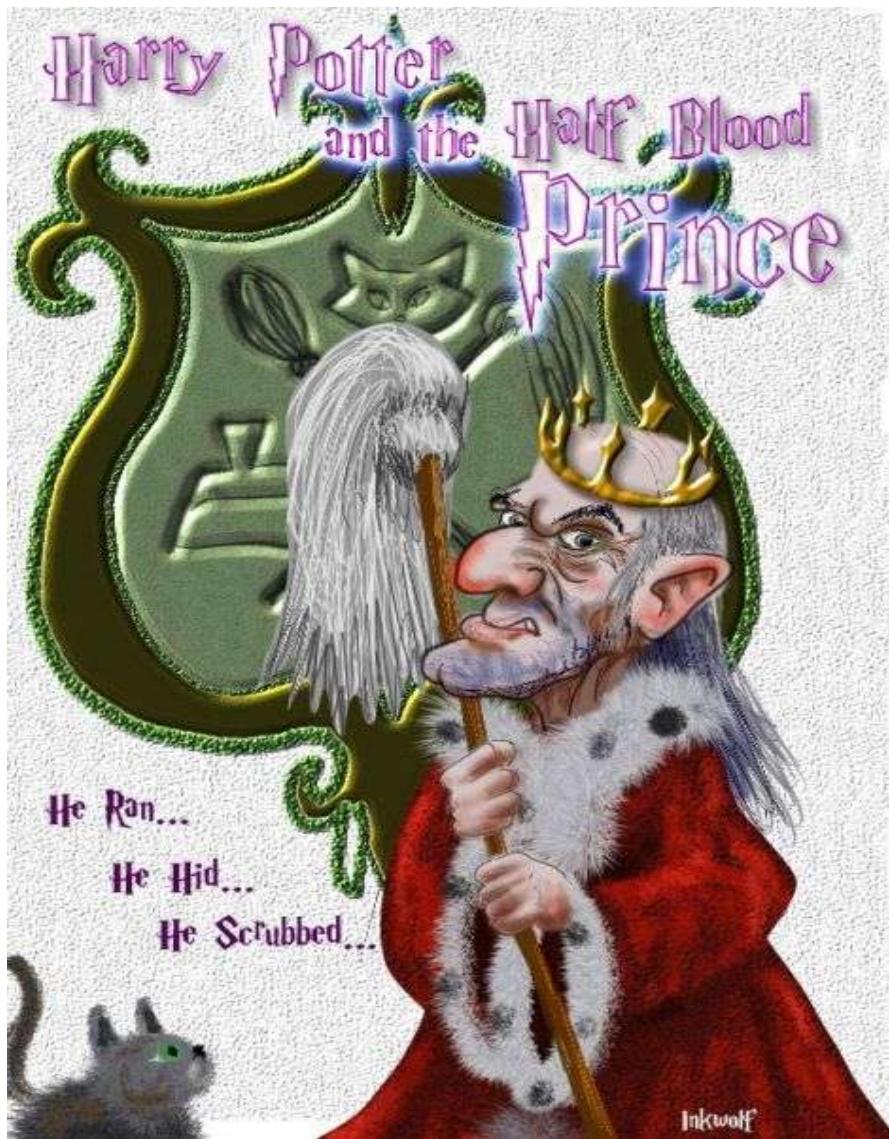
The small boy stood. His eyes burned with rage and determination. "I will learn magic," he swore. "I will take my birthright. I WILL be Wizard King!" He turned to Dumbledore. "Take me to Hogwarts."

"But Your Highness," Flamel objected. "Hogwarts has already rejected you as a student. Though it may be the one place your enemies are unable to touch you..."

"I will MAKE them take me," said the prince, fists clenched. "I WILL stay at Hogwarts, somehow, some way. Whatever it may take. And I will learn magic and return to the castle as the true Wizard

King."

Dumbledore bowed. "Yes, Prince Argus," he said. "I will take you to Hogwarts."



Evidence that Argus Filch is the Half Blood Prince:

The Half Blood Prince was the working title of CoS, until Rowling decided that the prince's story belonged in Book 6. She has said that CoS contains vital clues to Book 6 and the future!

In CoS, Harry spends time in Filch's office, discovering his secret Squibbiness. Other secrets might also have been planned to be uncovered, originally.

Harry notices the Quikspell envelope on Filch's desk. It's purple, the color of royalty!

The VERY FIRST ATTACK of the basilisk in CoS is on FILCH'S CAT! Many fans believe that cats act as 'seeing-eye dogs' to squibs, since they can see dangerous magic which a squib can't detect. Was Riddle clearing the way to eliminating the heir to the throne?

Filch has been identified by Rowling as the ONLY PERSON who stays at Hogwarts year round! Obviously hiding from anti-royalists and paparazzi!

Rowling has said that SOMEONE will learn magic surprisingly late in life! As there are few non-magical characters in the book, Filch is a prime candidate for a fuller role!

There is a mythic tradition of kings in exile doing humble chores...though most of them don't gripe about it as much as Argus does.

Princely attributes...he is tyrannical, he has a neat and tidy streak, and he prefers to torture those who annoy him. And he keeps files on all his enemies for future reference! Just wait till he learns a spell...when he's king, those Weasley twins are going to PAAAY!